



Eastside Audubon  
your connection to nature

birding  
conservation  
education

14 June 2016

Planner Christian Geitz  
City of Kirkland  
123 Fifth Avenue  
Kirkland, WA 98033

Reference: Permit No. SHR16-00803

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of Eastside Audubon to comment on Case No. SHR16-00803 regarding the proposal of a Process IIA Shoreline Conditional Use Permit for a sea plane operation at Carillon Point Marina. We are opposed to the issuance of this permit because of the danger to protected wildlife. The planes would be too disruptive to birds resting and feeding along the shore, especially over the winter months. This area of Lake Washington is a major wintering ground for many species of ducks.

This area of Lake Washington proposed as the site of the sea plane operation is a wintering area for migrating waterfowl and they would be harmed if a sea plane operation is established there. Waterfowl will be alarmed by planes moving in and out of the area and the noise from their engines, causing them expend energy which they need for wintering over. In addition, birds may be hit by the sea planes.

A wide variety of birds use this area of Lake Washington. Review of data from bird watchers' checklists posted to eBird, a database maintained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and open to the public, in the area near Houghton Park in January and February 2016 show bird species and the numbers of each of them.

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The following table presents the date on which the birds were seen and the observer's name, the name of the species, and the number of each species seen:

<u>Seen on 19 Feb 2016</u> <u>by Ryan Merrill</u>	<u>Additional birds seen on</u> <u>18 Jan 2016 by Adrian Lee</u>	<u>Other birds,</u> <u>continued</u>
Eurasian Wigeon 1	Gadwall 4	Osprey
American Wigeon 140	Aythya sp. 60	Caspian Tern
Mallard 17	Pied-billed Grebe 2	Dark-eyed Junco
Mallard (Domestic type) 7	Horned Grebe 6	Canada Goose
Greater Scaup 70	Red-necked Grebe 1	Great Blue Heron
Lesser Scaup 70	Western Grebe 150	House Finch
Bufflehead 1	Song Sparrow 1	Violet-Green Swallow
Common Goldeneye 3		Bald Eagle
Common Merganser 6		Black-capped chickadee
Double-crested Cormorant 1	<u>Other birds that use</u>	Bewick's Wren
American Coot 2	<u>the area throughout</u>	Northern Flicker
Mew Gull 4	<u>the year are:</u>	White-crowned Sparrow
Ring-billed Gull 3	Hooded Merganser	Belted Kingfisher
California Gull 1	Cooper's Hawk	Varied Thrush
Western x Glaucous-winged	Barn Swallow	
Gull (hybrid) 2		
American Crow 4		

The review of this proposal and the Environmental Impact Statement will need to include a discussion of the effect of the sea planes on these birds, and a determination of how the proposal will address the danger to these birds and whether or not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue a take permit. If you have information about this aspect of the proposal, please send that information on to us.

Please add our chapter to the list of those who have commented on this proposal and I would appreciate your sending us a notice of the date of the hearing. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jan McGruder, President

CC: Planning Director Eric Shields  
City Manager Kurt Triplett  
Mayor Amy Walen  
Deputy Mayor Jay Arnold  
Councilmember Shelley Kloba

Councilmember Penny Sweet  
Councilmember Toby Nixon  
Councilmember Dave Asher  
Councilmember Doreen Marchione